1153

COMIC SHOP NEWS

I DO!

DO I EVER!

STAN GOLDBERG BOB SMITH

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ARCHIE 601

THE NOBODY™

WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY THE AWARD-WINNING CREATOR OF THE ESSEX COUNTY TRILOGY, JEFF LEMIRE

"A COMPLEX MIXTURE OF LIFE, LOVE AND REGRET."– JEFF SMITH (BONE, RASL)

"KEEPS YOU TURNING PAGES RIGHT TO THE END."– JEFFREY BROWN (CLUMSY)

"NOBODY WILL NOT LIKE THE NOBODY !"
– ALEX ROBINSON (BOX OFFICE POISON)

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Uslan Moves from Gotham to Riverdale

Michael Uslan, the man more responsible than any other human being for the existence of serious Batman films, has left Gotham behind as he temporarily relocates to much friendlier environs—namely the pleasant town of Riverdale.

Uslan first made his mark on the world of comics through his role as producer of the Batman films, beginning with 1989's *Michael Keaton* ***Batman*** and continuing through 2008's ***The Dark Knight***. But as much as he loves the world of Gotham City and its costumed crimefighters, he's always had a soft spot in his heart for Riverdale and its residents—Archie, Veronica, Betty, Jughead, Reggie, and the rest of the Riverdale gang. So, just as his passion for all things Batman led to a history-making series of films, his passion for Riverdale is leading into one of the most historic Archie storylines in more than sixty years: the marriage of Archie Andrews.

If anyone wondered just how much media attention an Archie storyline could generate, the news furor that surrounded the revelation that Archie was marrying Veronica made it clear that the answer is "quite a lot, actually."

"It's been absolutely incredible, the media frenzy around the world," Uslan told *CSN*. "For *Jay Leno* to use it in his final ***Tonight Show*** monologue, for *Katie Couric* to make it her signoff story that week, for *Rachel Maddow* to offer breaking news developments about Archie's wedding, for Al Jazeera to cover it—well, that makes it pretty obvious that Archie's wedding is considered pretty big news indeed!

"And on top of that, the internet buzz has been phenomenal. I have probably read ten thousand postings so far, and it's just fascinating to see how people respond to this. There are people who write long diatribes about his marrying Veronica, or they're befuddled that he's marrying at all. There are others who think that Veronica's the perfect girl for him. There have been editorials on this, and in the end they always say, 'I don't know why I care so much, but I do.'

"The idea of Archie getting married touches on a part of our childhood that has been frozen in time. A lot of people are relating to that. I love hearing people say "I have to buy these and share these with my grandchildren or my children.' That's really cool. I also love hearing comments like, 'I didn't know they even made Archie comics any more! Where do I find these?' This story is hitting people on a very emotional level, and it's making them want to find a place where they can buy these books—and I think the worldwide attention is great for both Archie and the comic book industry!"

How did a man best known as a film producer end up writing a history-making Archie storyline? "Well, going back to around 1980, I co-wrote, with *Jeff Mendel*, a book called ***The Best of Archie*** for GP Putnam & Sons. It was the first-ever Archie collection, and to prepare for it Jeff and I sat in the Archie offices and read every comic in the library. I had always loved Archie--*Bob Bolling's* ***Little Archie*** was a favorite--and I really did learn to read from the Archie and Harvey comics. Archie even shaped my vision as a kid regarding what high school and dating would be like, and it was formulative in that way--and I think it still is for a lot of kids.

"So writing Archie was on my bucket list—I always wanted to write an Archie story arc or graphic novel. And as I got grayer, I decided it was time to scratch a couple of these things off. So I approached *Victor Gorelick* at Archie and told him I'd like to do a story . He asked if I had anything in mind, and I said 'Archie gets married.' He said, 'No, seriously.' But I said I *was* serious, and after thinking on it for a while, he couldn't come up with a single reason why we shouldn't do it."

While Uslan was confident that the storyline would generate a little bit of buzz, he wasn't prepared for the global response that it got. "We never anticipated the news reports all over the world and all the media attention. Since this story broke, I've done at least thirty interviews, and Victor's done a bunch, too—it's incredible, really! Apparently there are a lot of other people who love Archie!"

A storyline this important needs extra space, so the company is giving Uslan an unprecedented six issues to tell the story of the proposal and marriage. "It goes on through *Archie #605*," Uslan said. "In fact, it actually goes on a little longer than that, because they just asked me to write a twelve-page epilogue in ***Archie #606*** as well.

"The story starts about five years in the future, on the day of college graduation. We get to see what the future holds for Jughead and Moose and Reggie and Mr. Weatherbee and Miss Grundy and Pop Tate and the rest of our Riverdale favorites. You learn who has grown and evolved, and who peaked in high school—the Al Bundys of the world who peaked there and could never maintain the popularity they had at that moment in time.

"There are plenty of twists and turns and surprises spread out over all six issues. Just when you think that everything's figured out, you'll see some really fun twists and turns involving various characters. This will, I hope, keep people coming back for every single issue of this six-issue story arc."

"My goal over these six issues is to continually surprise people. There will be plenty of surprises involving all of these characters and more—don't take anything for granted, don't take anything as a foregone conclusion ,because life throws us all something unexpected.

Uslan's inspiration for the storyline came from his own family. "My father-in-law, one of the wisest men I ever met in my life, said that 90% of a person's happiness or unhappiness will come from his or her choice of spouse. Your choice of spouse not only affects the lives of the two people getting married, it affects the lives of their families and friends in a sort of butterfly-effect way--lives are altered as a result of the choices they made."

Uslan has become aware just how deeply ingrained in popular culture Archie, Betty, Veronica, and the rest of the Riverdale Gang are. "It's rare in popular culture for people to feel so attached to a fictional character that they actually feel that they know them as friends. But people have strong feeling about this, because they feel like they know these characters. I've certainly seen the online polls like the ***Today Show*** poll where it was 80/20 Betty over Veronica, with Jughead placing a very strong third."

While the world of Archie is fictional, Uslan is drawing the inspiration for his story from real-world events. "I'm writing about real life as far as I'm concerned," Uslan said. "To me, this story has already occurred in real life with *Brad Pitt* choosing *Angelina Jolie* over *Jennifer Anniston*; it's amazing how similar the reactions were. Another consideration is the economy, which leads to the issue of 'do you marry for love, or for money and security?'"

But no matter how much real-world inspiration Uslan utilizes, he never forgets that he's writing about fictional characters who are nevertheless as real as—or perhaps even more real than—real-world celebrities as far as legions of readers are concerned. "It's essential that we maintain the personalities that people know," Uslan said. "No matter what generation you grew up with, whether you read Archie in the 40s or the 50s or the 60s or if you're reading Archie today, you know who Archie is, and we have to stay true to that. There are many winks of the eye to every generation of readers, because they're all important. You'll find little winks of the eye to every generation hidden in this story, in places like street signs and other background elements."

Not only is Uslan getting to write a historic story involving a favorite character, he's also getting to work with one of his favorite artists. "The icing on the cake for me is the opportunity to work with a living legend like *Stan Goldberg*. I wanted to keep this in the classic Archie style; I can't imagine anyone other than Stan does this."

Uslan hopes that this isn't just an isolated storyline; instead, he'd like to think it's the beginning of something more. "I think what we're doing here is creating a definitive future for Archie," he said. "As I'm doing this epilogue, you'll see that it's a definitive future for all of our favorite characters. And I'd like to think that this is just the beginning of the next phase of their lives, and there are plenty of stories to be told there.

"The way we're doing this, it doesn't pull the rug out from under their teenage antics and their teenage experiences. There will always be a place for the stories of Archie and his friends in high school; but there could be a place for stories of Archie and his friends after college, too."

Uslan suspects that some comic shops may have underestimated the demand this storyline will generate. "WE've stirred the coals under the general public, and now the heat is building," he said. "I just hope that, when people come in looking for these books, they'll find ample quantities of them; this has the potential to be really, really big!"

Archie #600, featuring the first installment of "Archie Marries Veronica,"is scheduled for August 19th release.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

CSNsider

•DC's heroes have crossed over with numerous other comics universes, from Marvel to Dark Horse to the Imageverses of Savage Dragon and Spawn—and later this year, they'll be joining forces with Teshkeel Comics' The 99, a supergroup inspired by Islamic culture and history.

Created by *Naif Al-Mutawa*, The 99 are a a team of superheroes, including Jabbar the Powerful and Noora the Light who must collect 99 gems encrypted with the wisdom and power of the ancient Dar Al-Hikma library of Baghdad, which are spread across the globe. In the upcoming crossover miniseries written by *fabian Nicieza* (who is no stranger to The 99, having written the series previously), the Islamic team will join forces with Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, and the heroes of the Justice League of America.

While the Teshkeel books aren't well known in American comic shops, the comics sell hundreds of thousands of copies in the Middle East and South Asia.

"It is a long-standing tradition for characters to meet others in the fictional world, and over the years a lot of the superheroes have been translated into Arabic, taking on ethnic elements," DC President and Publisher *Paul Levitz* told the UK newspaper ***The Guardian***, "but this is a nice step forward. The most difficult creative test is when you are working with the least precedent and when you're trying to reach an audience that has a different cultural bias and different interests."

Look for more info on the crossover in upcoming issues of *CSN*!

•When superstar artist *Mark Bagley* leaves ***Batman*** to join writer *James Robinson* on ***Justice League of America*** this fall, his replacement will be an artist quite familiar to Batfans: *Tony Daniel*, the ***Batman*** illustrator who supplied both words and pictures for all three issues of ***Batman: Battle for the Cowl***, will take over as writer and artist with ***Batman #691***. "I've done my research, I've chosen my players, and I've outlined six months worth of story and I'm in the scripting phase of my first issue," Daniel told DC's blog The Source. "We'll be seeing the return of some once-familiar faces, faces, I can say, who are not so friendly to Gotham. I'll be introducing a new character to the city of Gotham. There are also a few surprises in store that I hope will get people excited."

•Foiled again! Marvel is bringing back that trademark of the 1990s, the foil enhanced cover, for the launch of the Ultimate Comics line. ***Ultimate Comics Armor Wars #1***, ***Ultimate Comics Avengers #1***, and ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #1*** will each be accompanied by limited edition "foilogram covers" that feature the regular cover art surrounded by holographic foil. Check with the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop for info regarding price and availability.

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News*
in cooperation with Matt Brady and *newsarama.com*

•*Garth Ennis* and the folks at Dynamite Entertainment have reached an agreement to publish a second round of ***Garth Ennis' Battlefields*** miniseries in 2010. Once again, Ennis will produce a trio of three-issue miniseries, including sequels to ***The Night Witches*** and ***The Tankies***, along with a new series, ***Happy Valley***, focusing on an Australian bomber crew's mission over Germany in 1942.

•When Bluewater Press collects their *Sarah Palin* biography in the ***Female Force TP***, they'll be adding a new epilogue that includes the latest surprising developments in Palin's political career. "We felt this was another defining moment in her career and we would be remiss if we didn't update her story," said *Darren Davis*, Bluewater president. The trade, scheduled for late September release, will also include Bluewater's biographies of *Hilary Clinton*, *Michelle Obama*, and *Caroline Kennedy*.

•When Top Cow launches its ***Pilot Season 2009***, they'll do so with the help of a pair of surprise guest talents. *Robert Kirkman* and *Marc Silvestri* are teaming up to co-create five original concepts for this year's Pilot Season initiative. Kirkman will write the stories for the pilot issues, while Silvestri will create the designs for the series and contribute the covers for each issue. Interior art teams and details of the concepts will be announced at a later date.

•DC's CMX imprint has announced the addition of five new manga series in the first half of 2010. The new projects include *Yunosuke Yoshinaga's* shonen adventure ***Rampage***, *Takanori Yamazaki's* shojo sports tale ***Diamond Girl***, *Ichiro Sakaki & Tomo Hirakawa's* ***Polyphonica: Cardinal Crimson***, and a pair of shojo projects, ***My Darling! Miss Bancho*** and ***Nadeshiko Club***.

•*Saw* director *Darren Bousman* is creating a splatterpunk horror series, ***Abattoir***, for Radical Comics; the series chronicles a real estate agent's efforts to clean up the scene of a brutal massacre at a mansion he hopes to sell—but his simple cleanup efforts take a turn into ominous territory when the agent finds himself caught up in a twisted reality of murders and mayhem.

•*Terry Moore's* superb ***Strangers in Paradise***, already available in standard-sized collected volumes as well as six hefty pocket trade paperback volumes, is about to get the deluxe treatment. ***The Strangers in Paradise Omnibus*** includes the entire ninety-issue saga in two 1100+ page hardcovers packaged in a handsome slipcase. The 1250-copy limited edition set will also include a bonus cover gallery hardcover, reproducing every cover in full color. Look for this lavish three-book set in September. And a word to the wise: grab this larger-trim-size ***Omnibus*** now if you want to enjoy Moore's masterpiece in all its artistic glory, because the comic-sized trade paperbacks and hardcovers are going out of print soon, meaning the ***Omnibus*** will be the only way you can enjoy these pages in the 7" x 10" size for which they were originally produced.)

•Platinum-selling singer/songwriter *Colbie Caillat* will make a guest appearance in ***Veronica #196***, where she'll be performing with one Archie Andrews. In the story, titled

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

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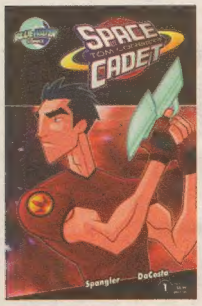
"Fallin' for You" to tie in with Caillat's single of the same name, Betty wins tickets to see Colbie Caillat in concert, and Veronica wants in—but Betty has already promised to take Archie! "Mixing it up with Archie, Veronica, and Betty and the gang is absolutely one of the highlights of my career," Caillat said Look for it in late August.

•Tom Corbett flies again! One of television's earliest spacefaring stars, ***Tom Corbett: Space Cadet***, is about to return to the media spotlight courtesy of Bluewater Productions. The series, which follows Corbett and his friends as they train to become members of the elite Solar Guard, will return in a four-part miniseries debuting this fall.



"Although it's been many years since his last adventure, Tom and his crew are still appealing characters with strong chemistry and a dash of retro fun," Bluewater president *Darren Davis* said. "The series is not just for baby-boomers looking for a walk down memory lane, but promises to be a fun roller coaster ride for any fan of space opera."

The series will be produced by writer *Bill Spangler* with art by *John de Costa*. Look for the first issue in September.

•Archaia Productions has announced the creative team for their upcoming five-issue ***Days Missing*** series based on a concept from Roddenberry Productions. *Phil Hester & Frazer Irving* will do the honors on the first and last issues of the series, while *David Hine & Chris Burnham* contribute story and art for ***DM #2***, *Ian Edginton & Lee Moder* for ***DM #3***, nd *Matz & Hugo Petrus* for ***DM #4***. *Dale Keown* will provide the cover art for each issue.

Days Missing tells the stories of a mysterious being known only as "The Steward." His ability to literally "fold" days of time has allowed him to secretly remove critical days from our shared history that have forever changed the course of mankind.

The series kicks off in late August with a 99¢ first issue.

IDW Adds Riverdale to Itinerary

Archie Comics & IDW? The combination may seem as odd as an Archie/Punisher team-up—but as was the case with that historic meeting, reports of IDW and Archie joining forces are indeed true!

First off, IDW has landed the rights to produce collections of the classic *Archie* comic strip produced by *John Goldwater & Bob Montana*. The newspaper collections will appear as a part of IDW's Library of American Comics line, edited by comic strip expert *Dean Mullaney*.

"We are incredibly excited to be working with Archie Comics," said Greg Goldstein, IDW's chief operating officer. "There are very few comics as influential in popular culture as Archie, and we are looking forward to offering original, never-before-reprinted strips and a wealth of comic book material to fans."

Additionally, IDW will also present ***Best Of*** volumes that showcase the work of Archie artists such as Montana, *Dan DeCarlo*, and *Stan Goldberg*, as well as special collections of ***Archie's Madhouse*** and the Archie-starring superhero spoof ***Pureheart the Powerful***. *Craig Yoe* will edit many of these special volumes.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with IDW Publishing on these important historical works," Archie co-CEO *Jon Goldwater* said. "IDW is well known for their outstanding work and we look forward to working closely with the team at IDW to create a line that all past, present and future Archie fans will enjoy."

•Top Cow continues to form strategic alliances in the comics, game, and film fields; the company's latest partnership finds them working with Heroes & Villains Entertainment to create and co-finance a series of original comics and graphic novels. The first title from Top Cow and HVE will be ***Tracker***, created and written by *Jonathan Lincoln* with art by *Francis Tsai*. ***Tracker*** tells the story of Alex O'Roarke, an FBI agent tracking a bloodthirsty serial killer, whose mission takes a sinister turn when his quarry turns out to be a werewolf. Look for it later this year.

Back to Press

The following books are slated for second printings (unless otherwise noted):

•***Detective Comics #854*** (MAY098146, in stores 7/29)

•***Dark Reign: Sinister Spider-Man #1*** (MAY098103, in stores 7/29)

•***Dark Avengers/Uncanny X-Men—Utopia*** (MAY098104, in stores 8/5)

•***Dark Wolverine #75*** (MAY098152, in stores 8/5)

•***Deadpool #11*** (MAY098153, in stores 8/5)

•***Deadpool: Merc with a Mouth #1*** (MAY098109, in stores 8/5)

•***Invincible Iron Man #15*** (MAY098150, in stores 8/5)

•***Uncanny X-Men #513*** (MAY098151, in stores 8/5)

•***Chew #1*** (MAY098172, 3rd printing, in stores 8/5)

•***Chew #2*** (MAY098173, in stores 8/5)

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STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 7-6
"WHY WON'T YOU DATE MY COUSIN?"
"BECAUSE I'D RATHER DATE YOU!"
WHAT A PLAY! NOTHIN' BUT TALK!
BUT THAT PARKER'S A REAL BABE! I'LL LOOK HER UP AFTER THE SHOW.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 7-7

ABSOLUTION #1 (OF 6)

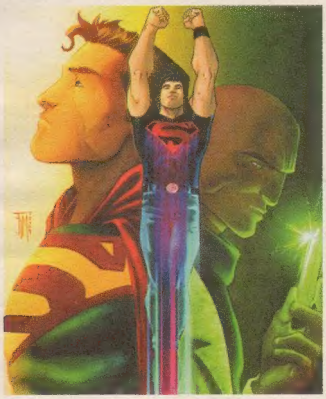
Christos Gage (W); Roberto Viacava (A)
(Avatar JUN090733 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Meet John Dusk, a superhero in a world where they're a sanctioned arm of law enforcement. However, this hero has crossed the line, letting a murderer die... and he's willing to do it again

Why Should You Care?

Christos Gage explores the nature of superheroics in this story that reveals just how far a hero will go to stop the sociopaths who prey on the innocent—even though his Nietzschean approach will put him on a collision course with his former teammates.



ADVENTURE COMICS #1

Geoff Johns (W); Francis Manapul & Clayton Henry (A)
(DC $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Superboy and the Legion *both* return to the title in which they starred for many years.

Why Should You Care?

Not only are two of DC's most long-lived franchises now sharing an extra-length monthly title, but superstar writer *Geoff Johns* (who's responsible for revamping both concepts in *Legion of 3 Worlds*) is the mastermind behind both stories.

ARCHIE #600

Michael Uslan (W); Stan Goldberg (A)
(Archie JUN090699 $2.50)

What's the Scoop?

After years of dating both Betty and Veronica, Archie makes his choice in this tale set shortly after Archie and his friends have graduated college. But why does he propose to Veronica?

Why Should You Care?

Michael Uslan, producer of ***Batman***, ***The Spirit***, and many other films, makes Archie history with this near-future tale that answers the most-asked question in Archie history—which girl will he choose?

BATGIRL #1

Bryan Q. Miller (W); Lee Garbett (A)
(DC JUN090144 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

In the wake of ***Battle for the Cowl***, there's a new heroine protecting Gotham. But who is this young woman, and why has she chosen to wear the mantle of the bat?

Why Should You Care?

There's an all-new Batgirl in town—and considering the perpetual fan appeal that Batgirl has carried over the years, that's all the reason you need!

BATMAN: WIDENING GYRE #1 (OF 6)

Kevin Smith (W); Walter Flanagan & Art Thibert (A)
(DC JUN090143 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Batman crosses paths with a previously-unknown vigilante in a project that ultimately paves the way for an ongoing series starring an all-new hero in the DC Universe.

Why Should You Care?

Not only is *Kevin Smith* writing this miniseries, he's also contributing a new character to the DCU—and he premieres in the pages of *Widening Gyre*.

BLACKEST NIGHT #2 (OF 8)

Geoff Johns (W); Ivan Reis (A)
(DC JUN090122 $3.99)

BLACKEST NIGHT: BATMAN #1 (OF 3)

Peter Tomasi (W); Adrian Saef & John Dell (A)
(DC JUN090125 $2.99)

BLACKEST NIGHT: SUPERMAN #1 (OF 3)

James Robinson (W); Eddy Barrows & Ruy Jose (A)
(DC JUN090127 $2.99)

BLACKEST NIGHT: TITANS #1 (OF 3)

JT Krul (W); Ed Benes & Rob Hunter (A)
(DC JUN090129 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The dead are rising all across the DCU... but how have the Black Lanterns caused this unnatural resurrection? And for what reason? And just wait until you see who has come back from the dead: the Flying Graysons, the Earth 2 Superman, and Terra, just to name a few!

CSN TOP CON

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns masterminds the biggest DCU event of the year as ***Blackest Night*** continues to bring back some of DC's most lamented casualties... but this *isn't* the way that anyone wanted them to return! Meanwhile, the trio of ***Blackest Night*** tie-in miniseries reveal how these unholy resurrections impact DC's non-ring-wielding heroes.

DAREDEVIL #500

Ed Brubaker (W); Michael Lark (A)
(Marvel JUN090528 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

What is the Kingpin's true plan? What do he and Lady Bullseye have in common? And what will Matt Murdock do to make things right again?

Why Should You Care?

Ed Brubaker & Michael Lark end their ***Daredevil*** run with this extra-length issue—and they're going out with a bang!

DARK ENTRIES HC

Ian Rankin (W); Wether Dell'Edera (A)
(Vertigo/DC APR090259 $19.99)

What's the Scoop?

John Constantine may have experienced all sorts of outré happenings, but has his exotic career prepared him for the horrors of reality television and a night spent with a group of wannabe-celebrities in a supposedly haunted house that may be much more ominous than anyone imagined?

Why Should You Care?

Best-selling crime writer *Ian Rankin* helps launch Vertigo's new crime line with this graphic nove that doesn't promote its ***Hellblazer*** ties... but John Constantine fans are definitely going to want it!

DARKNESS/PITT #1

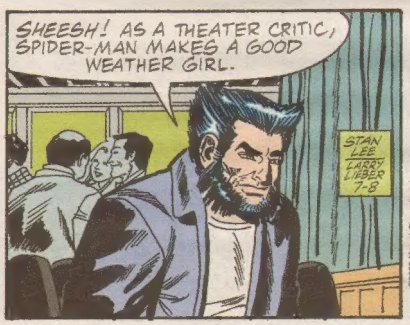
Paul Jenkins (W); Dale Keown (A)
(Image/Top Cow JUN090415 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Tim and Pitt begin a mission to track down alien virus infectees—a mission that brings them face to face with Jackie Estacado. The Darkness isn't their biggest problem, though... not when the federal government is on their trail!

Why Should You Care?

Pitt creator *Dale Keown* returns to his fan-fave creation, joining ***Darkness*** writer *Paul Jenkins* for a teamup tale that puts Pitt back in the spotlight.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MICS: AUGUST

DIE HARD YEAR ONE #1

Howard Chaykin (W); Stephen Thompson (A)
(Boom JUN090765 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

John McClane, hero of the *Die Hard* films, had to start somewhere, right? In this licensed miniseries, readers can find out where! See rookie cop John McClane in action in New YOrk City during 1976's Bicentennial celebration... and the Summer of Sam.

Why Should You Care?

When a billion-dollar-box-office action hero makes the move to comics, you can count on lots of folks checking it out—and when veteran action-with-an-attitude writer *Howard Chaykin* is involved, odds are they'll like what they see!

DOOM PATROL #1

Keith Giffen & JM DeMatteis (W); Matthew Clark & Kevin Maguire (A)
(DC JUN090176 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The original Doom Patrol return... and they've brought along their own backup act, the Metal Men!

Why Should You Care?

Two of DC's quirkiest Silver Age superteams return in a two-fer series—and *Keith Giffen* is the man who knows how to do quirky! *Matthew Clark* joins him on Doom Patrol, while his JLA partners *JM DeMatteis & Kevin Maguire* do the honors on the Metal Men.

FILTHY RICH HC

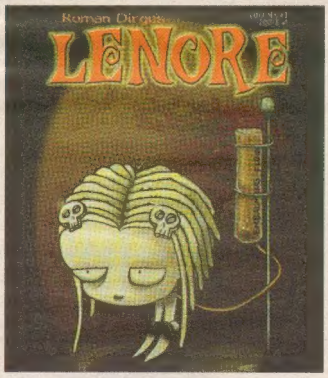
Brian Azzarello (W); Victor Santos (A)
(Vertigo/DC APR090258 $19.99)

What's the Scoop?

A former pro football player whose career was cut short by injury is tapped to be the bodyguard of his boss's sexy, rich daughter... but things don't go as planned.

Why Should You Care?

Joker writer *Brian Azzarello* is the writer for this noir-edged graphic novel that's the other launch book for Vertigo's new crime line.



LENORE VOLUME II #1

Roman Dirge (W/A)
(Titan JUN091065 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

As Lenore struggles to escape from the bizarre funereal clutches of Mortimer Fledge, readers learn the secrets behind Lenore's embalming over a century ago.

Why Should You Care?

Roman Dirge finally gives his legions of fans what they've been clamoring for: an all-new *Lenore*, his first in more than two years. Even better, new publisher Titan Books has upgraded the series to full color!

MARVELS PROJECT #1 (OF 8)

Ed Brubaker (W); Steve Epting (A)
(Marvel JUN090440 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Who is the mysterious old man who lies on his deathbed in a hospital in 1939, and how does his passing mark the beginning of the first heroic age of the Marvel Universe—and signal the rise of the superhumans? Find out in this series that sheds new light on the beginning of Marvel's superhero Golden Age.

Why Should You Care?

Ed Brubaker & Steve Epting, the men responsible for the mega-selling "Death of Steve Rogers" saga, redefine the origins of the Marvel heroic age in this series that combines classic Golden Age heroes like the original Human Torch, the Sub-Mariner, the Angel, and Captain America with modern-day icons such as Nick Fury and Wolverine.

PROJECT SUPERPOWERS: MEET THE BAD GUYS #1

Joe Casey & Alex Ross (W); Chasen (A)
(Dynamite JUN090819 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Meet the villainous Blood Lust, and learn the truth about his connection to the Green Lama in the first in a series of villain-focused oneshots that expand on the *Project Superpowers* universe.

Why Should You Care?

Alex Ross & Jim Krueger proved there was a bright future for heroes from the past—and now they're giving their villains their moment in the spotlight.

RED CIRCLE: INFERNO #1

J. Michael Straczynski (W); Greg Scott (A)
(DC JUN090173 $2.99)

RED CIRCLE: THE HANGMAN #1

J. Michael Straczynski (W); Tom Derenick & Bill Sienkiewicz (A)
(DC JUN090172 $2.99)

RED CIRCLE: THE SHIELD #1

J. Michael Straczynski (W); Scott McDaniel & Andy Owens (A)
(DC JUN090175 $2.99)

RED CIRCLE: THE WEB #1

J. Michael Straczynski (W); Roger Robinson & Hilary Barta (A)
(DC JUN090174 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

A Union doctor hanged during the Civil War is resurrected in order to save the innocent and condemn the guilty. A bombing victim inexplicably survives a fiery conflagration... and become something more. A billionaire who hopes to buy himself a superheroic

WHERE'S MS. PARKER'S DRESSING ROOM?
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' BACKSTAGE?
SECURITY GUARD
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JUST ABOUT ANYTHING I WANT, BUB.
SNIKKK
5-SECOND DOOR ON THE RIGHT--BUT I DIDN'T TELL YOU, OKAY?
YEAH, YOU WERE A ROCK.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 7-9

NOK NOK
PETER? I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE HERE.
©2009 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
I AIN'T THIS PETER GUY--BUT THIS IS YOUR LUCKY NIGHT.
!
NAME'S LOGAN... A.K.A. WOLVERINE.
stenzfanz @ aol.com
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 7-10

identity learns that true heroism requires some things that money *can't* buy. And a military casualty in Afghanistan is transformed into a patriotic hero.

Why Should You Care?
J. Michael Straczynski makes his DC debut with a quartet of oneshots that revamp the classic Red Circle/MLJ heroes for a new generation.

STAR TREK: NERO #1
Mike Johnson & Tim Jones (W); David Messina (A)
(IDW JUN090956 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?
The villainous Nero launches a plan to destroy the Federation in this original tale set within the events of the hit ***Star Trek*** film.

Why Should You Care?
Not only does this book present an original story that links to the box office smash film, but it's plotted by the film's writer/producers *Roberto Orci & Alex Kurtzman* and produced by *Mike Johnson, Tim Jones, & David Messina*, the same team responsible for the ***Star Trek: Countdown*** film prequel.

TYRESE GIBSON'S MAYHEM #1 (OF 3)
Tyrese Gibson, Mike Le, & William Wilson (W); Tone Rodriguez (A)
(Image JUN090321 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?
Los Angeles falls prey to the kingpin known only as Big X unless Mayhem and his partner Malice can shut down the villain's operation. But in order to do that, they'll have to unravel the dark secret that mysteriously links them to Big X.

Why Should You Care?
Best-selling musician and ***Transformers*** star *Tyrese Gibson* is not only the idea man for this new series, but he's also actively pushing it through various social networking sites, so you can expect lots of folks looking for ***Mayhem*** this August!

ULTIMATE COMICS AVENGERS #1
Mark Millar (W); Carlos Pacheco (A)
(Marvel JUN090468 $3.99)

ULTIMATE COMICS SPIDER-MAN #1
Brian Bendis (W); David LaFuente (A)
(Marvel JUN090471 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?
When a highly classified secret threatens Captain America, the newly-returned Nick Fury steps up to remedy the situation in a tale that introduces the Avengers to the revamped Ultimate Comics Universe. Meanwhile, Spidey's status quo is redefined in the aftermath of Ultimatum, complete with a new supporting case, new villains... and maybe even a new Spider-Man?!

Why Should You Care?
Ultimatum reset everything in the Ultimate Universe—and now *Mark Millar* and *Brian Bendis* kick off the relaunch with the debut of the first two Ultimate Comics titles starring the most popular Ultimate Universe heroes.

Check 'Em Out:
Books You *Should* Be Reading

FAHRENHEIT 451 GN
(Hill & Wang JUN090928 $16.95)

Tim Hamilton presents a graphic novel adaptation of *Ray Bradbury's* dystopian tale of bookburners, censorship, and those who preserve books at all costs.

GARGOYLES: BAD GUYS TP VOL 1
(Amaze Ink JUN090673 $17.95)

Gargoyles creator *Greg Weisman* presents the previously-unseen final issues of the miniseries in this collection that casts the five toughest villains of the Gargoyles universe as humanity's best hope.

GI JOE SPECIAL: HELIX
(IDW JUN090948 $3.99)

Brian Reed introduces a brand-new Joe in this special issue that ties in with the new *GI Joe* videogame.

HERO COMICS: HERO INITIATIVE BENEFIT BOOK
(IDW JUN090950 $3.99)

This 32-page no-ads comic (produced to raise money to assist Silver Age and Golden Age creators who worked without pensions or retirement benefits) features original material by *Howard Chaykin* (who contributes a new ***American Flagg*** story), *Kyle Baker, Bill Willingham, David Lloyd, Kyle Baker, Gene Ha, Mark Schultz*, and more.

MARVEL COMICS #1 70TH ANNIVERSARY
(Marvel JUN090454 $4.99)

Something old, something new: state-of-the-art contemporary coloring highlights this reprint of the comics that started the Marvel Age way back in 1939.

SPIRIT #32
(DC JUN090196 $2.99)

Talk about getting back to your roots! *Mike Ploog*—who got his start in comics as an assistant to ***Spirit*** creator *Will Eisner*—wraps up "The Celtic Stone" in this series finale.

STARSTRUCK #1
(IDW JUN090953 $3.99)

Elaine Lee & Michael Wm. Kaluta's acclaimed SF series returns to print after an absence of nearly twenty years in this remastered, recolored version. Each issue also includes an episode of Lee & Kaluta's "Galactic Girl Guides."

TIMOTHY & THE TRANSGALACTIC TOWEL HC
(Image JUN090327 $16.99)

Mike Bullock & Michael Metcalf present Timothy, a young boy who learns that his seemingly-mundane beach towel has the amazing ability to transport him to other worlds and times.

VIETNAM WAR HC
(Hill & Wang JUN090929 $19.95)

Former ***The 'Nam*** artist *Wayne Vansant* supplies the visuals for this graphic history of the most controversial war of the 20th Century, tracing it from its early 1960s beginnings through the evacuation of Saigon in 1975.

WEDNESDAY COMICS #5 (OF 12)
(DC JUN090139 $3.99)

WEDNESDAY COMICS #6 (OF 12)
(DC JUN090140 $3.99)

WEDNESDAY COMICS #7 (OF 12)
(DC JUN090141 $3.99)

WEDNESDAY COMICS #8 (OF 12)
(DC JUN090142 $3.99)

DC's massive Sunday-funnies-style tabloid comic continues on a weekly basis, with each issue featuring work by *Neil Gaiman, Mike Allred, Joe Kubert, Kyle Baker, Dave Gibbons*, and many more.

Collected Cool:
August's Best Reprint Volumes

ABSOLUTE V FOR VENDETTA HC
(Vertigo/DC JAN090275 $99.99)

Oversized slipcased edition of the *Alan Moore-David Lloyd* classic adds improved coloring and other bonus features—including almost 100 pages of extra material not seen since the series' original comics publication.

AL WILLIAMSON'S FLASH GORDON: LIFELONG VISION OF HEROIC HC
(Flesk JUN090913 $44.95)

AL WILLIAMSON'S FLASH GORDON: LIFELONG VISION OF HEROIC SC
(Flesk JUN090912 $29.95)

This 256-page volume collects *Al Williamson's Flash Gordon* work from the 1960s through the 1990s, including his King Features comics from the 1960s, his 1980 adaptation of the motion picture, and his 1994 Marvel miniseries, along with oodles of bonus pages including sketches, comic strip work, and more.

COMPLETE ESSEX COUNTY HC
(Top Shelf JUN091068 $49.95)

COMPLETE ESSEX COUNTY TP
(Top Shelf JUN091069 $29.95)

Jeff Lemire's award-winning trilogy—***Tales from the Farm, Ghost Stories***, and ***The Country Nurse***—is compiled in a single volume that includes more than fifty pages of previously unpublished material, including two new stories.

YOU'RE WOLVERINE--THE MUTANT?
WELL, I AIN'T WOLVERINE THE ACCOUNTANT.
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DC LIBRARY: JLA BY GEORGE PEREZ HC VOL 1

(DC APR090207 $39.99)

George Pérez's earliest ***JLA*** work is presented in this hardcover that collects **Justice League #s 184-186, 192-194,** & the postcard set.

EERIE ARCHIVES HC VOL 2

(Dark Horse APR090060 $49.95)

Experience the glory days of Warren horror comics with this volume collecting **Eerie #s 6-10,** featuring work by *Gene Colan, Steve Ditko, Gray Morrow, Neal Adams, & Frank Frazetta,* among others.

MARVEL MASTERWORKS ATLAS ERA BLACK KNIGHT HC VOL 1

(Marvel MAR092619 $59.99)

The art of *Joe Maneely*—the man who might have played a vital role in the launch of the Marvel Age of comics had fate not taken his life a few years before the launch of ***FF #1***—is the highlight of this volume collecting ***Black Knight #s 1-5*** and ***Yellow Claw #s 1-4.***

SANDMAN BY JOE SIMON AND JACK KIRBY HC

(DC APR090212 $39.99)

Simon and Kirby's first great creation for DC is spotlighted in this collection of Golden Age Sandman tales from ***World's Finest #s 6 & 7, Adventure #s 72-97 & 101-102,*** and 1974's Simon & Kirby reunion book, ***Sandman #1.***

USAGI YOJIMBO SPECIAL EDITION HC

(Fantagraphics JUN090896 $95.00)

This massive slipcased set contains the first seven Usagi Yojimbo books in one handsome package.

Hot Commodities:

August's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

COVER GIRLS OF THE DCU: ZATANNA STATUE

(DC Direct JAN090300 $99.99)

The art of *Adam Hughes,* originally featured on the cover of ***Catwoman #58,*** is the inspiration for this sexy statue of DC's most seductive sorceress.

EXECUTIONER MINI-BUST

(Bowen JUN091493 $65.00)

Sculptor *Troy McDevitt* does the honors for this 8" tall bust depicting the Asgardian Executioner, battle axe in hand.

JUNGLE GIRL STATUE

(Dynamite APR090774 $189.00)

The incomparable art of *Frank Cho* is the inspiration for this statue based on the cover of ***Jungle Girl #1.*** This sculpture was over a year in development to ensure that it captures all the subtle nuances of Cho's art.

REAL POWER OF THE DC UNIVERSE POSTER

(DC Direct JAN090314 $8.99)

Adam Hughes supplies this stunning image of DC's most powerful women in formal attire. Originally designed as a promotional piece, this art is offered for sale for the first time.

WADDAYA SAY, KID? CARE TO SPLIT A PIZZA?
SORRY, WOLVERINE. I'M MARRIED.
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THAT'S NOT WHAT SHE MEANT!
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STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 7-13

HUH? YOU KNOW ME?
I, UH, HEARD MJ CALL YOU THAT.
CAN'T LET ON THAT HE'S ALREADY MET ME--AS SPIDER-MAN!
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LIKE I SAID-- SORRY FOR HORNIN' IN.
GUESS I WAS JUST LOOKIN' FOR SOME COMPANY.
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